(*c*) the progress that has been made in establishing sericulture as a regular industry ; and

(*d*) whether, in the light of the experiments already made, there are reasonable prospects of sericulture proving a profitable industry in the State ?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) About 16 years.

(*b*) Total of recurring expenditure—Rs. 50,692-8 chs.

Total of non-recurring expenditure—Rs. 4,210-15 chs. 14 c.

(*c*) and (*d*) An extract* from a recent report of the Director of Agriculture and Fisheries, containing the information required by the member, is laid on the table.

Strength of the Arts College.

169. **MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR** (*Shertallai*) : Will the Government be pleased to state the total strength of the Arts College in the beginning of the last academic year (1926-1927) and in the beginning of the present academic year (1927-1928) ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): 617 at the beginning of 1926-27 and 559 on the 19th July 1927, the beginning of the academic year 1927-28.

Liquor and Opium Shops in Trivandrum Town.

170. **MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI** (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*) ; Will the Government be pleased to state the number of arrack, toddy opium and foreign liquor shops situated in the Trivandrum town ?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*) : The information is furnished below :

Arrack shops	...	18
Toddy „	...	14
Opium „	...	1
Foreign liquor „	...	5

School for Mental Defectives.

171. **MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI** (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*) : Will the Government be pleased to state if any school for mental defectives has been opened anywhere or whether this question has engaged their attention ?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*) : No.

Inefficient Officers of the Excise Department.

172. **MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI** (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*) : Will the Government be pleased to state ;

(*a*) the number of officers in the Excise Department who were promoted to higher grades, but who have been subsequently found to be unfit for the places to which they were promoted, during the last three years (1099-1101) ; and

* *Vide* Appendix IV—pages 860 and 861.

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